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661-295-5600 X2404, OR FAX US AT 661-257-4953.****TO:****Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Attn: Michael Barr, Art Unit 1762
Patent Examining Corps
Facsimile Center
Washington, DC 20231****FROM:****Ralph D'Alessandro
General Patent Counsel****PHONE:****703/872-9309****FAX:****703-872-9310****PHONE:****661-295-5600 x 2404****FAX:****661-257-4953****Documents Transmitted:****Response to Office Action (3 pages).****Applicant(s):****Sherwood et al.****Serial No.:****10/099,839****Filed:****March 13, 2002****Group Art Unit:****1762****3D Systems Docket No.:****USA.302****I hereby certify that this paper (along with any paper referred to as being transmitted herewith) is being facsimile transmitted to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, Washington, DC 20231, on the date shown below.****Brenda L. Webb****Date: March 31, 2003**

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CONFIDENTIAL

PATENT
USA.302**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Applicant(s) : Sherwood et al.
Appl. No. : 10/099,839
Filed : March 13, 2002
Title : INFILTRATION OF THREE-DIMENSIONAL
OBJECTS FORMED BY SOLID FREEFORM
FABRICATION

Grp./A.U. : 1762
Examiner : Barr, Michael

Docket No. : USA.302
Customer No. : 022514

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office
Washington, D.C. 20231

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RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION

Dear Sir:

This response is submitted in reply to the Office Action given in the above-identified Application on March 11, 2003.

REMARKS

1. The Office Action required a restriction under the provisions of 35 U.S.C. §121 to either the Group I Claims 1-15 drawn to a method of treating an object, or the Group II Claims 16-23, drawn to the composition. The Action indicated that the inventions were distinct because the Group I and II claims were related as product and process of use, wherein the composition of Group II claims were alleged to be able to be used in a materially different process other than that of Group I. The Action specifically cited that the materially different process was "...where the composition is not permeated into the article to be treated, such that the composition is merely applied to the surface." The Action alleged, therefore, that the inventions were distinct and had acquired a separate status in the art, as shown by the different classification and the alleged different search for one group not required for the other group. This restriction is traversed.

#4/A
Freda
4/1/03

GROUP 1700

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